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Choices about word choice (diction) + word arrangement (syntax) in sentences affect...

- How the sentence reads/sounds: logical or semantic connection of ideas, details, content, etc.
- Distinguishing the present from the past from the future (verb tense)
- Focus (no digressions or tangents)
- Parsimony (opposite of verbosity, or wordiness)
- Using Active Voice, but knowing when using Passive Voice is okay
- Avoiding long strings of prepositional phrases, recognizing dangling or misplaced modifiers
- Complexity (RSMs can often be complex or compound-complex sentences—particularizing, complication, contextualizing, synthesis, juxtaposition, distinguishing, reiteration)
- Sentence Structure variance: simple (declarative, imperative or interrogatory), compound sentences (coordination), complex (subordination), compound-complex (coordination + subordination): more complicated sentence structure = more complex thought.
- Doing any/all of above by combining sentences or parts of sentences.

Choices about Diction/Language affect...

- Clarity of meaning—the writing is clear and makes sense.
- Precision—diction is concrete, succinct, specific, to the point, and lacks ambiguity or vagueness
- Whether language is appropriate (i.e. colloquialisms, slang, expletives, dialogue)
- *Using details* that identify/re-name (Who? What?): concrete nouns instead of pronouns
- *Using details* that show location & time (When? Where?)
- A writer's ability to replace weak or "to be" verbs with concrete, vivid, Action Verbs
- Avoiding clichés or recognizing when to strategically using them for a purpose
- Knowing when to directly address the reader, when to insert oneself (I) into the writing
- Avoiding wordiness, and wordy "empty language" like "for the reason that" or "due to the fact that" when you can simply use "because."